



Cromarty and District Community Council

Approved minutes of meeting held on

Monday 25th September 2023, 730pm

Virtually via Microsoft Teams and in person at The Victoria Hall

Present

Community Councillors: Paige Shepherd (PS) - Chairwoman, Alan Plampton (AP) – Treasurer, Andy Thurgood (AT), and Nigel Shapcott (NS).

Youth Member: Dominic Scott-Lodge (DSL)

Highland Councillor(s): Sarah Atkin (SA)

Member(s) of the public:

Minute Secretary: Claire Fraser (CF)

1. Chair's Welcome & Apologies

PS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies from Peter Ratcliffe (PR) Secretary & Kari Magee (KM)

PS, AT, SA, NS and AP were all present from The Victoria Hall.

CF and DSL attended online via Microsoft Teams.

Minute Secretary note – PS recorded the first part of the meeting as CF was unavailable. CF joined at 754pm and DSL left at 8pm.

2. Declarations of interest

No changes to declarations since meeting of 26th October 2020

3. Approval of previous minutes, 28th August 2023

The minutes were approved by NS and seconded by AP

4. Matters Arising from previous minutes, 28th August 2023

1. (4.1 – On hold – Waiting for more directions re. TMP in 2025.) **On hold.**
2. (4.2 – To speak to Wanda re. involving the kids in the redesign of the Welcome to Cromarty Sign). Paige to attend YC and speak to Wanda. **Action – PS.**
3. (4.3 – To resubmit photos of fly tipping at Whitedykes to THC (more recent reports)). Ongoing. **Action – KM.**
4. (4.4 – To discuss action required re. progressing level-crossing system @ Reeds Loop (see May 2022 minutes for full info). Ongoing. **Action – PS/KM.**
5. (4.5 – Awaiting guidance from TSG re. Green Freeport proposals). **Action – ALL.**

6. (4.6 – Potential to involve the Primary School with Links Shrubbery continuous maintenance). **On hold.**
7. (4.7 – Email to be sent to local businesses re. job board). Done. Good response received from businesses and think it's a good idea. **Discharged.**
8. (4.8 – Planning application fee paid - to apply for re-imburement by Stagecoach). Work on the shelter started and completed. Some snagging works highlighted by Craig Fraser. To follow up for the reimbursement. Ongoing. **Action – PR.**
9. (4.12 – Mgmt. of the HMR has been transferred to Library Services but still waiting reports re. major maintenance issue). Ongoing. **Action - AP.**
10. (4.13 – Funding needed so emergency refresher resilience training can go ahead to ensure can keep TVH as an emergency resilience centre). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
11. (4.14 – KM to follow up the youth mentoring programme with Dom post exams). **Action – KM**
12. (4.16 – To chase Andrew Puls at THC re. self-seeding trees plus repairs to East Church (from Craig)). **Action C&DCC.**
13. (4.17 – Reeds Loop Weed Burning to be completed once more funding sought). **On hold (NS).**
14. (4.18 – Paige to contact Lyndsey at THC to clarify some points regarding housing qualification for social housing poster). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
15. (4.19 – Community Regeneration Funding to be applied for in relation to replacing gym equipment in The Victoria Park). Ongoing. **Action – AP.**
16. (4.20 – Final discussions re. the website taking place with Alan and Andy). We are almost there! **Action – CF.**
17. (4.21 – To discuss action/how to approach THC re. the reason for toilet closure/community options etc). **Action – ALL.**
18. (4.22 – Draft email to be approved by PS to John Nightingale about hole at Pirates Graveyard). **Action – KM.**
19. (4.23 – PS to ask new ward manager who is responsible for the sign at the bus shelter). Email to be sent. **Action – PS.**
20. (4.24 – To email JN re. the repairs required to The Ladies Walk). Someone to take this on. **Action – C&DCC.**
21. (4.25 – Emailed Dougie @ Highland Ferries to arrange a meeting). Ongoing. **Action – PS.**
22. (4.27- To speak to Denis (resident) re. Hedge options to see if he can offer advice on what we should order for the park). Ongoing. **Action – KM**
23. (4.28 – To discuss with AP where shouldn't be mowed at The Hugh Miller Monument so stakes can go in, and posters put up to stop THC). Ongoing. **Action – KM**
24. (4.29 – To continue to discuss with all three councilors re. The use of weed killer in the town, plus the 'maintenance' of the graveyards). Ongoing. **Action – PS**

25. (4.31 - Booking calendar sent out. Bookings made on application. Traders on Links for further discussion). Ongoing. **Action – PR**
26. (5.1 – Reach out to Dom, check everything ok). Done. **Discharged.**
27. (6.1 – Send projected figures documented round other CC’s to seek their support and then approach THC). **Discharged.**
28. (6.2 – To email SA re. the need for funding for Reeds Loop so she can follow it up). **Discharged.**
29. (6.3 – To monitor the use of software for blended meetings to see whether Teams is the best communication method going forward). **Ongoing. Action – ALL.**
30. (8.1 – To draft our submission in relation to IMFDP and send to members before publishing). Submission drafted and submitted by AT in discussion with AP after we discovered the technical nature of the Reporter’s requests. **Discharged.**
31. (11.1 – To chase up a response from colleague in THC re. AP’s emails in relation to parking orders/byelaws). Reply now received. **Discharged.**
32. (11.1 – To discuss at a later date the idea of a composting toilet at The South Sutor Car Park). **Action - ALL.**
33. (11.2 – To speak to NS re. his opinion on the location of the proposed music festival and then to email TES to see if they’re open to a different location). Done. **Discharged.**

5. Youth Issues

PS asked DSL for any updates.

Nothing to report – everything seems to be going ok at the moment. School bus service has been more or less satisfactory.

6. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s Report and accompanying notes (**Appendix A & B**) were prepared by AP and circulated prior to the meeting.

Opened to AP for discussion, welcomed any questions.

AP advised he has to produce 6 monthly figures since the elections are coming up on 3 October 2023 when the C&DCC may cease to exist if there are no nominations. Members agree they hope THC won’t have to take over and the Community Council will remain.

AP opened for questioning.

The Victoria Hall:

NS asked what happens to TVHMC if C&DCC ceases to exist. Technically it won’t exist as it’s run under a term of reference through the Community Councillors. AP has confirmed however that it more than likely won’t change and they’ll continue to run it as is, especially as there isn’t a formal lease between THC and C&DCC (hasn’t been for about 7 years), so the original license to occupy is still in force and will continue to be so until either side objects.

Open Gardens:

NS questioned AP's comments. AP explained that he'd been asked to transfer funds to a personal entity, so they could then withdraw the funds as cash and give them back to each chosen charitable cause.

Have expressed they don't want to be through the C&DCC insurance, and will become a separate entity, so members agreed any funds held by C&DCC should be returned (£6.86).

If they're fundraising there should be transparency and liability insurance in place.

There were no further comments or questions.

7. Victoria Hall (VH) Report including Youth Café

The Victoria Hall Report (**Appendix C**) that was prepared by AP, and the Youth Café Powerpoint presentation prepared by Fraser Thompson (**available on Cromarty Live**) were circulated prior to the meeting.

PS handed over to AP for comments/discussion.

The Victoria Hall

The Sheddie:

Needs to get the code to The Sheddie changed as some people have been accessing it out of hours. AP to speak to Duncan, but if no joy he can speak to PS who can ask at MacGregors.

Gritting:

AP to ask PR if he plans to continue organising the gritting, or if a new team leader should be arranged. **Action – AP.**

Insulation:

Insulation consultation is to be done in October.

Rates:

THC are now demanding rates for TVHMC. In the past, AP was able to apply for charitable relief to get funds back (was always the case until about 7 years ago), then it changed to a Small Business Bonus Relief.

THC have revalued non-domestic properties for rates (ended in March 2023), and the rate for The Victoria Hall (and some other halls) is now over £6k which is the limit for the Small Business Bonus Relief. AP queried this as they will now have to pay the rates, didn't receive a response and has now received a demand for payment. As Di Agnew now retired, AP has followed this up with Julie Wileman (acting ward manager) as the hall **cannot** afford this. Need a solution quickly! AP to forward correspondence to Sarah! **Action – AP.**

There were no further comments or questions.

8. Members' Reports

8.1 Portfolios

Portfolio Reports prepared by PR, AT, NS and AP (**Appendix D-G**) were circulated prior to the meeting.

Nige:

We will lose the Reeds Loop path if it's not maintained. Is aware SA is following this up but she confirmed nothing has come back yet. AP to apply for ward discretion funding though, on recommendation from SA. Apply for £300. **Action – AP.**

Peter:

Members discussed the bench at Braehead and if PR knew anymore about it. NS aware Cromarty Care Project (CCP) are looking for somewhere to place a bench so was going to suggest they replace this one. To speak to PR as he wasn't in attendance. **Action - NS**

Andy:

IMFDP:

Opportunity to feedback ended today. AT hasn't had time to review comments made in responses to the recorder. Our C&DCC submission was made prior to the deadline.

Noise complaints:

There's been one more complaint, which did receive a response from THC. There continues to be only a small number of residents complaining and has been made aware of a Whatsapp group that people can join to discuss complaints etc. There are about 7 residents in this group, but the majority have given up making complaints because nothing came of it.

Andy read out the response received from THC Environmental Health, to a community complaint, regarding the parameters of their service provision with regards to noise complaints. All members agree it's good to have something in writing, as this is useful, but the response is not satisfactory.

Frustrating that the complaints continue to arise but they're still not being connected or/and all don't seem to be being received. PON don't believe there are complaints arising from berthed cabling vessels, but C&DCC are now aware this is not the case.

AT to send round a document re. Aberdeen Shore Power (confirming that funding came from the UK government). **Action – AT.**

All members agreed that commercial interests are being put before peoples health. What can we do? Speak to Ian Blackford? It all comes back to acquiring monitoring data. Conversation ended with everyone agreeing that they await to see the data that will be gathered from THC monitoring exercise.

NS to speak to Paul Thompson at The Lighthouse (University of Aberdeen). Continuous noise monitoring is bound to be a good project for students there. **Action – NS.**

Further discussions:

Electric charge points:

NS asked re. the electric charge points, as saw on PR's portfolio these are being taken on by the CCDT. PS confirmed that this is what was previously minuted, and AP confirmed he was aware they'd been given permission to install them in The Cromarty Cinema Car Park but no one had heard anything else. NS has been made aware there are grants that can be applied for via community.org. PS to speak to CCDT to see if they are carrying out this project. **Action – PS.**

Electoral role:

PS to give NS the number to call at THC re. his electoral role number in relation to Community Council Elections. **Action – PS.**

East Church Hall:

All members wondering if anyone's aware of any progress with this, and confirm it is **a matter of priority**. SA agreed if CCDT are too busy then someone else should take this on. All present expressed a desire to at least visit the TCH. To arrange this. **Action – AP.**

Open Meeting re The Royal Hotel:

PS confirmed (and AT agreed) that the open meeting held at The Victoria Hall by CCDT about the acquisition of The Royal Hotel was very well run and encouraged a very good discussion.

There were no further comments or questions on any portfolio.

8.2 The Highland Council

Sarah reported:

- More parking is required, and a large space is required for this but she's not sure Cromarty has this kind of free space on offer.
- There is to be a visitor levy tourist tax consultation (Legislation to give local authorities the power to apply a visitor levy, or "tourist tax" will give councils the ability to add a tax to overnight accommodation, based on a percentage of the total costs). SA thinks the charge should come back to the communities.
- Has advised us that the ward discretionary fund has a much smaller budget than ever before, and the three councilors are to discuss what the priorities should be. SA advised she is going to suggest community councils are prioritized.

There were no further comments and SA was thanked for everything.

8.3 Correspondence Received

Email from **Port of Cromarty Firth** re. Visualisations for a HV/DC Cable Factory at Nigg. Email said we can share with Community Councillors/residents but information is not to go on social media until plans were in place with The Highland Council.

All members agree that the information should be published on our noticeboard. **Action – AP.**

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Fire Service

All members were concerned to hear about the campervan fire that happened in Cromarty, especially as it was not able to be diffused by the Cromarty Fire Practice (they are only trained to attend road traffic collisions). Ask that SA follow this up as it seems crazy that victims had to wait for fire service to come from Inverness and Dingwall when there's a station 20 yards away!

SA to speak to fire fighter in Avoch as the reasoning behind Cromarty/Fortrose being unable to attend and will report back. PS to also ask Cromarty Fire Service. **Action SA and PS.**

9.2 Lothian community council email

All members agree we should join

9.3 Parking

THC confirmed that we should seek areas we need to and apply for public orders/byelaws to be applied. AP confirms however that they are impossible to enforce.

AT & NS suggest we have a public meeting re. the parking orders and see also about involving the CCDT as they could develop a carparking space somewhere. Are they going to install signage from Campsite to village? Members agree this was a good idea and can follow it up once elections are out the way (as there may well be new councillors by then anyway).

There were no further comments or questions.

10. **Date of next meeting**

Next meeting – Monday 30th October 2023 at 730pm.

PS thanked everyone for attending. Meeting ended at 2123pm.

APPENDIX A

Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report Notes

1. **AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE/PAID IN ADVANCE** reflects Internet costs paid in advance plus the £150 planning fee STILL to be repaid by Stagecoach. **INFORMATION ONLY**
2. **AMOUNTS PAYABLE** reflects £4.50 p&p costs to be repaid from our Paypal account for a publications sales overpayment, by an overseas customer, and £200 that is to be used on a Primary School project. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
3. **SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR YEAR** reflects the receipt of the HC Maintenance Grant of £472.07 for 2023/24. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
4. **C&DCC PROJECTION OF FUTURE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND POSITION** Following the last meeting, as agreed, this was shared with other Black Isle Community Councils. The response has confirmed a similar situation at two other BICCs but this will be delayed by the imminent CC elections. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
5. **COMMUNITY AMENITIES FUND** reflects public donations received from the collection tins at the Stores and the Post Office. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
6. **OPEN GARDENS FUND** It is proposed to return the historic £6.86 balance to the ‘Group’ involved with running the Open Gardens event, as they have expressed a desire to be separate from any C&DCC involvement and not be covered by our Public Liability cover. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
7. **COMMUNITY EVENTS FUNDS** reflects a payment for maintenance of the Goalposts in the Victoria Park. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**
8. **C&DCC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS @ 30th September 2023** are represented by this report, in accordance with the stipulated THC CC Election requirements. **FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

Alan Plampton
26/08/23

APPENDIX B
Agenda Item 6 – Treasurer’s Report

		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Net Assets			<u>Movement</u>	<u>at 26/08/23</u>
Bank & Cash in hand balances as at 24th September 2023		11,109.40	385.88	10,723.52
Paypal Balance as at 24th September 2023		4.50	4.50	0.00
Amounts Receivable/Paid in Advance		193.20	0.00	193.20
Amounts Payable		-204.50	-159.50	-45.00
Total Net Assets at 24th September 2023		£11,102.60	230.88	£10,871.72
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Represented by:				
C&DCC Accumulated Fund Reserves at 1st April 2023		2,093.28	0.00	2,093.28
Surplus/ Deficit for the year to date		-149.57	433.93	-583.50
		1,943.71	433.93	1,509.78
Community Amenities Fund		28.95	28.95	0.00
Emergency Resilience Fund		0.00	0.00	0.00
Provision for Guidebook reprinting at 1st April 2023		211.75	0.00	211.75
Gritting Fund		574.32	0.00	574.32
Cromarty Live Fund		46.01	0.00	46.01
Community Defibrillator Fund		1,016.39	0.00	1,016.39
Net C&DCC Reserves		3,821.13	462.88	3,358.25
Community Event Funds	<u>£</u>			
Bonfire Night Fund	2,302.14		0.00	2,302.14
Gala Fund	2,645.70		-32.00	2,677.70
Splash & Dash Fund	126.00	5,073.84	0.00	126.00
Open Gardens Fund	6.86		-200.00	206.86
Gluren bij de Buren Fund	202.06	208.92	0.00	202.06
Designated Community Funds				
West Church Playgroup Fund		1,485.29	0.00	1,485.29
Cromarty Rising Fund		513.42	0.00	513.42
		£11,102.60	230.88	£10,871.72
Alan Plampton 24th September 2023				

APPENDIX C

Agenda Item 7 – Victoria Hall Report

1. **Bookings** Winter bookings are in full swing. The Booking Fees review planned for 1st September and delayed to 1st October, at our last meeting, needs delaying further because we need to wait for relevant HC data that will be critical in calculating potential increases in charges. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
2. **Repairs & Maintenance** A survey of the Oil Boiler was completed i early September. However the boiler broke down on 18th September and the Fourways booking had to be cancelled on the 21st. Thanks to a helpful HC member of staff, the works order was issued and a repair done on the 22nd. A further replacement part is still required but the problem has hopefully been remedied for bookings in September and October. On the positive side, last week has now given greater access, to the contracted boiler service engineers, but let us hope that this access is not needed soon! The planned visit from an Energy Insulation specialist is now planned or October, so we can complete our feasibility study. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
3. **Youth Cafe** The monthly report, is attached. Following our last meeting, the Summer Programme Report, seen by Members, was amended before publication to the community. Obviously the highlight of this month was the HTSI (Highlands Third Sector Interface) Awards Event at Strathpeffer Pavilion on 1st September, where the Cromarty Youth Cafe was confirmed as the best Third Sector (Volunteer) Organisation for 2023. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**



Alan Plampton - VHMC
24/09/23

APPENDIX D
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Peter Ratcliffe

This Report is a Combination of Historical (Past History) and as an Update.

Cromarty Ferry.

- The Ferry Service continues with Summer Service on a shuttling basis. There are adjustments according to bad and inclement weather, this is duly warned in advance where possible, usually using social media. [This Ferry Service is very successful, well appreciated and is well used by holidaymakers, with many choosing their route based on using the Ferry Service. Google Maps also uses the Cromarty to Nigg ferry service on its mapping system. (OLD)]

Dog Fouling. (Overall). Ongoing.

There are still instances, however, the green town bins are being used for disposal of the bags. We can but hope, watch and observe! [Ongoing]

Links & Links Events Diary / Beaches and Litter.

- Bookings have been successful to date, well managed by the users and without incident.
- The current booking is for the Cromarty Rowing Club on September 22nd to 24th.
- Vehicular access to The Links still partially closed and locked, by Community and C&DCC decision.
- The area in front of Bob Maclean’s house (old ice rink) is marked off by permanent embedded wooden bollards, and large stones to stop parking and to let the grass, trees and wild flowers grow. Mainly donated by a local resident, (Fran Sadler); all flower seeds and plants gratefully received. [Ongoing – and looking good]
- The 2 Dog Waste Bins on the Links continue to be emptied, by Craig Fraser, by others, and myself. There have been no noticeable incidents. Photographic records kept.
- There is an old wooden bench, actually up on Braehead, that needs to be repaired or replaced. [Had various comments on Facebook but no positive action taken to date, and no action by others. Need to sort out ownership?]. Did not approach Avoch men’s shed yet. (No Change)

Litter.

- Highland Council had removed a number of bins. Town Bins continue to be being monitored and re-ordered. The Main Town bins continue to be emptied on Tuesdays, Commercial Bin Day. (No change – Ongoing).
- As we are now in the Summer Season, the current situation is being reassessed and an approach was not yet made to The Highland Council Department for restoration of the refuse bins to the previous numbers.
- Sutor Creek management continue to arrange for a number of bins in the harbour area to be “topped off” to reduce the level of debris such as pizza boxes in the Town Bins.
- Highland Council had changed the type of Town Bin in a number of cases to those with restricted opening. This is causing issues, as to the size of deposits. (e.g. Pizza Boxes) , with take away foodstuffs, Survey of the bins was updated. .
- The Bins which are most at issue (Due to takeaway food / motorhomes/ other rubbish?) are (No change):-
The Harbour Area.(currently reduced to 1 bin) / The Cinema Area. / The Toilets Bin / The Bins on Shore Street in the vicinity of “Old Fish Store”. (Date stamped photos are available.) We also have an issue with the sole rubbish bin at the Sutor Car Park getting emptied. [But this was previously emptied by THC (Highland Council) Operative. Which would depend on the available THC budget]
- Local volunteers, and some from out of town, continue to uplift litter and dump in the Town Bins. (Cromarty Litter Pickers – some equipment had been distributed previously.) (Old News)
- Some small additional tools and equipment were stored in The Sheddie, to be distributed, and to be used by litter expeditions, such as local projects. (Old News)

PoCF, Nigg Liaison, Rig Noise & Freeport Proposal.

Nigg Liaison Meetings – Currently virtual Meetings, by Teams attended by Andy Thurgood, Kari Magee and self.

PoCF - Emails being received regarding next Community Meetings with PoCF, next a physical meeting at the POFC Offices in Invergordon on 29th June 2023.

Cromarty Firth Freeport Proposal – Opportunity Cromarty Firth are now Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport. (No Change.)

Noise Complaints – handled by Andy Thurgood and Kari Magee.

Green Hydrogen Processing Plant – according to news comments, Twitter etc, planning and preparations continue. No further news.

Global Energy have planning application submitted for a new Cable Manufacturing Plant at the Nigg Site. Public Meetings were held and attended. No decision on their planning application is as yet available. (No change)

The existing Tank Farm, that was used for the Beatrice Oli Field, is proposed to be demolished. Await confirmation of action, but not expected to affect Cromarty.

There has been no further information given on the proposed Green Hydrogen Processing Plant, e.g. how will the processed hydrogen be transported to the proposed processing plant, by pipeline or tanker? If by tanker it raises the question of increased shipping traffic past Cromarty. (Old News)

Gritting and Machine Maintenance.

The gritter equipment has been cleaned and hung up in The Sheddie for the summer season. A further 5 no. grit bins had been supplied by Highland Council and were located around the town as required. The principle being for the members of the community to have access to grit for their use, to improve better Community Effort. (This should continue next Winter.)

An updated Survey is required to be done on the Grit Bins, with an updated map.

No information on the progress on the water supply for rinsing the units at the Sheddie? (Ongoing) (The gritters were previously taken to Allan Square for washing by self).

Cromarty Dog Waste Bins.

Ongoing.

Red Bins (6 No.) are being emptied on a regular basis both by some volunteers, with regular checking those at:-

The Links (2); The Reeds Walk Path; Cromarty Bowling Club Car Park; Stroopie Roadie, The Denny. The Links ones are done regularly, mainly by Craig Fraser. The Denny one is emptied. The Reeds Walk and Bowling Green Car Park ones are emptied, mainly by myself. (Sometimes advised as full by Jeremy Price) The Stroopie Roadie one is also emptied. There was no rota raised, following email traffic, the principle being that the bins which are nearby would be emptied.

Dog waste continues to be dumped in town bins, I do check, and it is reassuring that those concerned do this in most cases, rather than leave lying on the ground or around, except for the occasional time. Though I am sure that people rely on the bins (all types) being available. The industrial town bins are emptied on a Tuesday and all this waste also goes to landfill.

Sutor Car Park.

No changes recently.

Sutor Litter bin was being monitored by Nige (on his daily walks) and is being previously emptied by visiting THC Operative worker.

Previous Craig Fraser Projects – From 2021:- (Ongoing.)

Gaelic Chapel. [No change – ongoing.]

Previous virtual Meeting had been held. Craig had raised and discussed the Land Ownership documents from Land Sassines, to be reviewed. (No change). The main scope required is for clarification on the actual ownership of the building.

Site visited and stage photos taken. The bell is currently still in situ.
There had been signs of the area being used and visited. (By Teenagers?) [No change].

Graveyards in General. No. 1,2,3,4. (No change – ongoing.)

Consideration to be given to vegetation clearing and review of work carried out by Highland Council.
The grass cutting issue, Cromarty “Meadows”, was raised at the previous C&DCC Meeting.

Consideration on Dead Trees at Side of Road on The Denny.

Previously, the Trees have been commented on for safety reasons – issue needs to be reviewed and revisited.

I have taken photos of most of the trees and will prepare a work package.

I have checked and most of the trees are on the Kirky Brae, which is apparently Common Good Land and thus under the auspices of the Highland Council.

A.O.C.B.

E.V. Charging points.

Project is being carried out by CCDT.

Cromarty Benches.

Survey needs to be updated.

No progress on the dilapidated bench on Braehead whether it is to be renovated or replaced?

Relocation of the Bus Stop Shelter on The Links.

Current:-

Work was completed by the Stagecoach Team, however there are some minor completion issues raised by Craig Fraser.

Mary Peteranna (Salmon Bothy owner) had offered to assist with arranging with the renovation of the local guide notice. I have asked about ownership of the existing notice, with no confirmation to date. Also, enquired what progress has been made on the replacement Cromarty sign for the Shore Road. (This could be included ?) (No Change to this.)

Cromarty Streets.

Mr. Colin Dunn, Duke Street, had sent an email asking when the two missing cover plates, 1 at Allan Square/Denoon Place and 1 at The Denny are to be replaced by Highland Council. An email with photos was sent to THC Roads Department Manager for review and resolution. There has been no response as yet. Colin had used the T.H.C. Procedure with action number without success, but I did not. I have sent a follow up email. The email was commented on, as now being the responsibility of Scottish Water, but the work is not yet complete.

I will need to follow this up with preferably co-ordinates. But we are looking for confirmation that they would be replaced/fixed. (**Ongoing** – no further action has been taken)

Other Meetings. (Previously Reported On.)

Since the last C&DCC Meeting.

Attachments:-

None at this time.

APPENDIX E
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Andy Thurgood

Meetings attended

29th August – I attend a meeting of three Cromarty residents, to further discuss the effects of low frequency noise on their health and wellbeing for the two present that are affected by activities in the Cromarty Firth.

18th September – I attended the initial consultative meeting hosted by the Cromarty Community Development Trust, at the Victoria Hall, with regards to the potential for community acquisition of the Royal Hotel. Other C&DCC members in attendance were N Shapcott, P Ratcliffe and P Shepherd. The proposition for community acquisition was presented, and table groups were then invited to complete a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).

Inner Moray Forth Development Plan (IMFDP)

I submitted comments, as requested by the Reporter, on behalf of myself and C&DCC. These primarily concern the commercial activities of Port of Nigg within the plan.

There is now a period for review and comment on any submitted comments related to this last round of submissions. The submission date for this is 25th September.

Noise nuisance from the Firth

One specific noise complaint identified since the last meeting, relating to 5th September. A response was provided by Port of Nigg, identifying that reasonably practicable measures were in place.

One local complainant had written to Ian Blackford with concerns about noise/low frequency noise, and an element of this concerned the role of The Highland Council (THC). The questions had been pursued by a case worker, and a response provided by THC.

For discussion.

Andy Thurgood
24/09/23

APPENDIX F
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Nigel Shapcott

Reeds Loop Path

Mowing has been discontinued as C&DCC has no more funding for this project. I inspected the Path on 20th September. The grass requires another cut as in places the original width of the path of 1 metre is reduced to half a metre. It also needs to be treated as previously discussed with a weed burner to kill invasive weeds which have the potential of growing over the path.

The path was restored by a grant of £11,000 in July 2021 and is well used by visitors and the community including those with young children and pushchairs. There is a strong likelihood overgrowth will quickly prevent those who are not vigorous walkers from using it safely. Another asset of Cromarty will become unusable. One more cut and the weed burning I estimate the total cost would be no £200. I recommend that we approach HC for funding.

Cromarty Care Project (CCP)

As was reported last month Nigel Shapcott has resigned as a Trustee of CCP.

This report is an edited version of a report by Alison Sellar:

Monday Lunch Club will be re-convening from 2nd October at the Fishertown Inn. CCP is now in receipt of funds which will subsidise the bulk of the costs, participants only have to pay £3 for a two-course meal.

Funders are: Bank of Scotland Foundation - £8,000;

the Albert Hunt Trust - £1,500;

Making A Difference Locally (MADL- Nisa Retail) £1,080.

The Fishertown Inn will host the Lunch Club until March 2024, with a break over Christmas. CCP would like the Lunch Club to run year-round and are in discussion with the Royal Hotel to host from April - September 2024.

Community Larder Shed. CDT gave permission for a storage shed next to the Larder (currently we have 'borrowed' the shed owned by and located at St Regulus). We are awaiting the decision on a "Shed" grant application to the Woodward Charitable Trust but, if necessary, we will purchase the shed from our own funds.

MADL Bench. This project has been ongoing since last year, when CCP received £500 towards a community bench from MADL (Nisa Retail). CCP has tried to contact John Nightingale to get permission to erect the bench mid-way along the Shore Path with some difficulty. In view of the lack of communication, we have decided to investigate erecting a bench in Townlands, on the grassy area behind the sheltered housing. We are currently seeking permission from The Highland Council.

Slow Cooker Project. This project is now ended. A total of 48 households in the community have applied for and received a slow cooker, provided through funding from MADL- Nisa Retail. MADL was happy for CCP to use the remaining funds for the Lunch Club.

Seagull Trust Cruises The final of this year's Caledonian Canal cruises with Cromarty residents took place on Monday 18 th September. CCP co-ordinated three cruises with the Seagull Trust over the summer period, involving two car-loads of residents for each cruise. Much enjoyed by all who took part.

Table Tennis- has re-convened in the Victoria Hall on a Monday 10.30-12 noon. At present only two tables are able to be stored/used. CCP have been delighted to agree to a request from some members of the Youth Café to make use of the table-tennis facilities.

Playgroup. The Parents and Toddlers Playgroup has re-convened in the Victoria Hall on a Tuesday 10.00-11.30. They intend to approach The Middleton Trust for funding.

AGM & Trustees. Our AGM is in November, at which time three trustees will be standing down. We will inform C&DCC once replacement trustees have been appointed.

Cromarty Harbour Trust (CHT)- report from Colin Dickie

The discussion related to harbourgate has settled down and the resolutions we put in place were acceptable to the large majority of the community and harbour users. Any outstanding issues will be dealt with in the next weeks.

Funding of the harbour for repair and restoration continues to be the main focus and we are making good progress in funding to help address the state of the East Pier as explained in the Cromarty Newsletter a few months back. More on this next month as we still have some outstanding applications in the works.

END

APPENDIX G
AGENDA ITEM 8
PORTFOLIO REPORT – Alan Plampton

- 1. BICC** Final draft of Black Isle Place Plan was discussed by the BICC on 31st August, at a meeting attended by Paige and Alan. This was a very positive meeting but the subsequent BIPP presentations, at North Kessock and Cromarty, have created some concern, re varying governance proposals, amongst the BICCs attending. Next full BICC meeting scheduled for September/October (but delayed by CC elections) to be hosted by Knockbain CC, is intending to discuss this fully and seek clarification from the BIPP Project Team. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**
- 2. Housing** As detailed under MAs, the response to the IMFDP Reporter’s requests turned out to be very specifically related to the Freeport company’s late submission, detailing the development areas in the IMFDP that needed expanding to cover future Freeport plans . After liaising with AT, the Cromarty Rising submissions could not be used as they were ‘unrelated’ to the Reporter’s requests. AT completed the technical submission comments on behalf of the C&DCC. **ACTION – Information only, no action required**

Alan Plampton 24/09/23